REMARKS

Claims 4-15 and 20-23 remain pending in this application. Claims 4, 12, 13, and 14 are independent.

Claims 4-11 and 14-15 have been allowed.

Previously allowed Claims 12-13, and newly added claims 20-23 have been rejected for lack of novelty under 35 USC 102(b) in light of the newly discovered reference namely Cooper, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 4,286,416) (hereinafter "Cooper").

Essentially, the Cooper reference teaches the use of a bottle brush-type implement (hone 50) to abrasively and completely remove corrosion material and enlarge the holes (30) in a tube sheet (28) of a steam generator in a nuclear reactor for the purpose of inserting new tubes (38) into the tube sheet (Cooper col 2, line65 - col 3, line 5). In this case the term "tube sheet" as used in Cooper appears to refer to the disk-shaped spacer structure (28 in Fig. 1) having a plurality of angularly and radially spaced apart axial holes (30) through which a bundle (40) of heat transfer tubes (38) are inserted in a working nuclear reactor. Apparently, these holes need to be honed out to remove corrosion and enlarge the holes prior to installing new transfer tubes. Cooper provides a "suped-up" pipe cleaner to do just that. Indeed, for our purposes, the Cooper reference essentially teaches nothing more than what is taught by a common bottle brush, namely, that such a brush can be used to remove material from the inside surfaces of a tube.

The claimed invention departs from the disclosure of Cooper in at least one important way, namely, that the claimed material is a "releasable aromatic material" that is released to be sensed by a user rather than a corrosive-type material that is to be completely removed.

Claims 12 and 13 have been amended to more clearly recite that the sheet is adapted to carry a *releasable* aromatic substance which is designed to be released by contact with the abrasive end of the implement. The term "releasable" thus implies that the material is made to be intentionally released at some point for sensing by the user. This meaning departs from the meaning of the "corrosive material" described in Cooper which is an unwanted byproduct of the operation of the reactor which must be completely removed (Cooper, col 1, lines 53-62).

It is applicant's position that the reasonable meaning of "corrosive material" in the context of the Cooper reference cannot extend to cover a "releasable aromatic substance" in the context of the present application. This position is further supported by the fact that the use of the hone described by Cooper in Applicant's cigarette simulator would tend to remove the aromatic material altogether and not "release it" for sensing by the user.

A person engaged in the design of a cigarette substitute which emits an aromatic substance would not be inclined to look at devices for nuclear reactors which remove that substance altogether. Releasable aromatic substances and corrosion materials which must be completely cleaned out, fall in two different fields.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the combination of the cited prior art does not establish a prima facie case for rejecting the amended claims on lack of novelty grounds.

In light of the foregoing arguments, the Applicant respectfully requests early allowance of the pending claims.

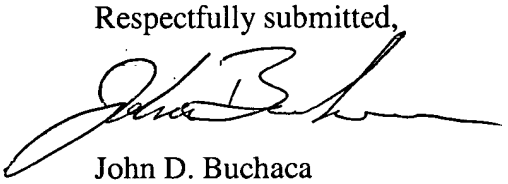
//

//

//

Applicant reserves the right to further prosecute the cancelled claims and any other broad claims supported by the disclosure in continuing applications.

Respectfully submitted,



John D. Buchaca
Registration No. 37,289

1545 Hotel Circle South, Suite 150
San Diego, California 92108-3426
Telephone: (619) 294-2922
Fax No. (619) 294-8674

040417

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 28, 2007, by John D. Buchaca, Reg. No. 37,289.

Signature:  Date: 2-28-2007